

Partnerships and Other Relationships

The National Park Service recognizes that cooperation with other land managers, tribal governments, organized groups, universities and private landowners can serve to accomplish much greater ecosystem sustainability and achievement of park management goals than actions taken solely by park staff. Therefore, the park will pursue opportunities that will result in the development of cooperative agreements and partnership agreements with stakeholders interested in assisting with the protection of park resources and providing for visitor services.

One such example is the cooperative agreement the NPS developed with the Fund for Animals. This agreement provides for this organization to accept, for purposes of adoption, of up to 300 feral burros per year, during our removal efforts. This effort provides an additional avenue for captured burros to be relocated as soon as possible, and at minimum cost to taxpayers.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Background

One of the missions of the National Park Service is to conduct educational outreach on natural and cultural resource preservation and management. These outreach efforts extend beyond the park boundary to include classrooms of local schools in and around the park unit. Reaching youth in the classroom and educating them on resource preservation and management serves to protect parks from impacts associated with uninformed visitors pursuing activities that may harm park resources. This effort can do more to protect parks through education than an equivalent number of staff simply enforcing regulations in the park. To fulfill this part of our mission, Mojave maintains an active presence in local classrooms, currently primarily in Needles and Baker.

Park staff also perform outreach through other activities such as local fairs, presentations to local clubs and groups and through the media.

Parks serve as ideal classrooms for students to learn about the natural and cultural resource values of the desert. Setting foot on sand dunes, or a cinder cone, or hiking through the Joshua Tree forest on Cima Dome, are experiences that cannot be duplicated with video, slides or other means. Mojave National Preserve is an ideal natural classroom for school groups anywhere to experience and study the Mojave Desert. To encourage school use, Mojave provides staff to lead specific ranger walks and talks for school groups as requested. Schools



are also be encouraged to utilize the park for extended classroom work, such as week long classes over spring break, where schools may bring a class and conduct an entire field class focusing on desert resources.

The University of California through the Granite Mountains Natural Reserve, and California State Universities through the Soda Springs Desert Studies Center, also promote school educational activities and offer specific classes for students and the general public via cooperative agreements with the park.

The University of California owns and maintains a series of reserves throughout California. The purpose of these reserves is to manage, protect and preserve sites that are undisturbed examples of California's extraordinary and diverse habitats for long term scientific research and for public education. On federal lands, this state purpose must be balanced with the park purpose and mission of protecting resources for visitor enjoyment. The National Park Service strongly supports and encourages the use of the Reserve for research and educational activities, consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

The Granite Mountains Natural Reserve is a 9,000-acre area in the southeast corner of the Preserve recognized by Congress in the CDPA. The University of California owns fee title to 2,200 acres of the Reserve, while most of the remainder is owned by the federal government and managed by the National Park Service. A 20-acre patented mining claim is also privately held inside the reserve.

The Soda Springs Desert Study Center operates from facilities and land at Zzyzx that are owned by the federal government and are under the management authority of the NPS by virtue of their inclusion within the Mojave National Preserve. Many historic structures are located at this desert oasis,

which has served as a desert research and educational facility for over twenty years. The NPS could benefit from a partnership with CSU to provide for continued maintenance and security of the facilities, offering of educational activities on desert resources for the public, and to attract scientific interests to pursue research in the Preserve.

Research and education are core mission elements of the NPS national goals and of the Preserve's enabling legislation. Congress highlighted these issues in the CDPA with following passages:

These desert wildlands display unique scenic, historical, archeological, environmental, ecological, wildlife, cultural, **scientific, educational** and recreational values used and enjoyed by millions of Americans for hiking and camping, **scientific study** and scenic appreciation. (emphasis added)

Retain and enhance opportunities for scientific research in undisturbed ecosystems.

Plan Actions

In recognition of the legislative direction and the scientific value of parks as natural laboratories, investigators will be encouraged to use the parks for scientific studies whenever such use is consistent with NPS policies and law. The Preserve will promote cooperative relationships with educational and scientific institutions and qualified individuals with specialized expertise that can provide significant assistance to the park. To the extent they are available, NPS facilities and staff assistance may be made available to qualified researchers and educational institutions conducting authorized studies or field classes.

The Preserve staff will continue to pursue partnerships with school teachers and university field offices at the Soda Springs Desert Study Center, the Granite Mountains Natural Reserve, and others to provide students and the public with current information on the cultural and natural elements of the Preserve. Where possible, field classes and seminars will be offered with assistance from California State consortium and University of California systems and other education providers. Educational programs will be expanded as staffing permits. Programs and information will be developed for visitors with little previous exposure to desert areas. Programs will seek to make resources and experiences more accessible to diverse audiences while retaining primitive conditions and protecting resources. A special educational outreach effort will be made to reach students that might otherwise not have an opportunity to visit national parks.

Soda Springs Desert Study Center. In accordance with CDPA (section 514), a cooperative management agreement will be developed between the National Park Service and California State University (CSU) to:

- provide for the management of the facilities at the Soda Springs Desert Study Center
- ensure the continuation of desert research and educational activities, consistent with laws applicable to NPS units.

A cooperative agreement will be used to define each entity's roles and responsibilities under the following guidance and framework:

- the NPS is ultimately responsible for the protection and management of all natural and cultural resources
- general public use and visitor access to the site will be supported, with opportunities for interpretation, self-guided trails and programs encouraged
- the Preserve will retain oversight and permitting responsibility for research and educational use
- the Preserve will retain authority and responsibility for law enforcement, interpretation and environmental education
- CSU will retain maintenance and security responsibility for most buildings and structures
- Modifications to existing structures or the addition of new structures may not occur without NPS permitting and compliance
- Mojave will have access to the facilities for public or agency functions
- a site management plan will be developed in cooperation with CSU
- a cooperative agreement with California Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service, CSU and the NPS will be pursued to establish management goals, activities and responsibilities regarding the endangered Mohave tui chub population of fish

Granite Mountains Natural Reserve. In accordance with CDPA, section 513, a cooperative management agreement has been developed between the National Park Service and the University of California to:

- provide for the management of lands within the Granite Mountains Natural Reserve
- to ensure the continuation of arid lands

research and educational activities, consistent with laws applicable to NPS units.

The designated wilderness within the reserve will be managed for wilderness values. The discharge of weapons in the natural reserve will continue to be prohibited by San Bernardino county ordinance and the National Park Service.

The objectives of the cooperative management agreement are:

- To develop, coordinate and implement research, inventorying and monitoring, and public education programs and projects to protect, restore and explain the natural, cultural, recreational and wilderness resources of the park and the Mojave desert ecosystem.
- To develop scientific knowledge through research to guide management decisions concerning the conservation, preservation and restoration of natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park and the Mojave desert ecosystem.
- To ensure continuation of the University's arid lands research and educational activities.
- To develop, coordinate and implement, as may be jointly agreed to, a general program of education and public outreach related to the educational and research needs of the University and the resource management and interpretive needs of the park.
- To make available to each other, when mutually agreed to and in accordance with the provisions of this agreement, assistance and support, including but not limited to, funds, supplies, equipment, facilities, staff, etc. to carry out programs, projects and activities related to the objectives and purposes of the agreement.

The National Park Service recognizes the concern with protection of long term research plots, and will work with the research community to address issues and concerns associated with their research and educational activities in the Preserve and the natural reserve.

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units. The National Park Service has a long history of association with universities near parks to promote research and educational activities in parks. One such unit has been located on the campus of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas for over 25 years. These units were once staffed by NPS scientists. These scientists

now work for the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, and the mission has evolved to be broader in scope than just parks. The new concept of Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) is being pursued nationally, with the goal of four new units being established in FY 2000. One of these new units was recently established at the University of Arizona to serve the southwest desert area. Mojave supports the retention of the existing CESU at UNLV, and embraces the newer CESU concept, and will utilize them as one mechanism to provide research, inventory and monitoring capabilities to meet park objectives.

GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

Background

Communities on the access routes to the Preserve provide the best opportunity for visitors to secure food, lodging, and other services prior to enjoying their park visit. The park currently operates information centers in Baker and Needles, with employees living in both locations.

Plan Actions

The park will encourage and support economic growth of gateway communities in ways that complement the Preserve's mission and management objectives. Some examples of partnership agreements that could be considered include:

- Cooperative ventures to provide visitor information and services
- Zoning or planning to protect solitude, natural quiet, pristine night sky, and prevent unsightly billboards
- Sharing of data and expertise

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Background

Within the boundary of Mojave National Preserve is the Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, managed and operated by the State of California. The prime attraction is Mitchell Caverns, where guided tours are offered. A developed campground with six campsites and RV camping is also available.

Plan Actions

The National Park Service has a statewide cooperative agreement with the Department of Parks and Recreation that addresses cooperative management

issues at several locations throughout California. The Preserve will also seek to develop a local partnership with the State to:

- share staff, expertise, facilities and other resources for cooperative resource management, interpretation, law enforcement and maintenance activities.
- share radio system repeater sites and equipment
- collaborate on signing on interstates and park roads
- collaborate on planning efforts for visitor service programs

NATIVE AMERICAN INTERESTS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Background

Tribal Relationships. For millennia, American Indian peoples have lived within the region of the present Preserve, using the resources and lands to sustain their lives and cultures. During the 1950s and 1960s, Federal Indian Lands Claims court cases involving Chemehuevi, Mohave, and Owens Valley Paiute tribes included documented occupation and use of many mountain ranges, valleys, and resources in the Mojave Desert region. Maps illustrating Chemehuevi use of the lands now in Mojave National Preserve were accepted by Mohave tribal officials as well. Individual members of the Mohave Tribe have family historical information on early 20th century land uses in or near Preserve lands. Today's tribal governments and communities historically associated with the region in which the Preserve is located include:

- The **Chemehuevi Indian Tribe Reservation** (30,600 acres) was established by presidential executive order in 1971. Federal recognition was received in 1970. Economic support derives from land leases, retail businesses, tourism and recreation services, and gaming. Tribal enrollment is about 500 persons, 300 of whom reside on or near the Havasu Lake, California, developed area.
- **Mohave Indian Tribe Reservation** lands lie in Arizona, California, and Nevada, but tribal offices and some residential areas are in Needles, California. In 1864 a reservation was established from a former military fort reserve and nearby traditional lands. Economic developments relating to gaming, tourism, recre-

ation, and retail business with considerable agricultural land leases provide tribal and individual incomes. The tribe population numbers approximately 1,000, with some 500 people living on or near reservation lands.

- The **Las Vegas Piute Tribe** is composed of "Nuwuvi" people, called Paiute by others, who have inhabited present-day southern Nevada from pre-European time to the present. In 1911 a small parcel of trust land was established near the town of Las Vegas. Today, the tribe owns the original 16-acre area and a 3,800-acre area north of metropolitan Las Vegas. The tribe numbers about 100 people who obtain their economic support from tribal tourism enterprises, retail sales, and wage work.
- Located in San Bernardino County, California, the **San Manuel Tribal Community** is composed of historic Serrano peoples who occupied the mountainous areas in present-day Riverside and San Bernardino counties, with their related neighbors, the various Cahuilla communities. The 660-acre reservation was established by Congress in 1893. The tribe consists of about 85 persons residing on or near trust lands. Tribal enterprises include a casino and a curation facility.

The opportunity to consult with American Indians arises from the historic as well as current government-to-government relationship of the federal government with them and from the related federal trust responsibility to help conserve tribal resources. Tribal sovereignty is involved and supported by the government-to-government relationship. The government-to-government relationship stems from treaties, laws, and other legal entities, including presidential executive orders, proclamations, and memorandums; federal regulations; and agency management policies and directives. Examples are:

- The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-601);
- The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665, as amended by Public Law 102-575);
- The Indian Self-Determination Act and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (Public Law 93-638 and Public Laws 103-413, 103-435, and 103-437);
- The Presidential Memorandum entitled "Government-to-Government Relations With

Native American Tribal Governments" (April 29, 1994) and Executive Order 13007 "Indian Sacred Sites" (May 24, 1996).

Traditional Cultural and Religious Activities.

Section 705 of the California Desert Protection Act recognizes past uses of parks and wilderness areas by Indian people for traditional cultural and religious purposes, and ensures access for these uses. The Act also provides for temporary closures to the general public, upon request of an Indian tribe or Indian religious community, of one or more specific portions of the park or wilderness area in order to protect the privacy of such activities.

Sacred Sites. Executive Order 13007, entitled "Indian Sacred Sites," states that each federal government agency with responsibility for the management of federal lands "shall, to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions (1) accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners, and (2) avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites."

Indian Trust Resources. The federal government is obligated to protect, conserve, and manage Indian trust lands, water and fishing interests, and traditional use areas and other trust resources. Secretarial Order 3175, "Departmental Responsibilities for Indian Trust Resources (August 17, 1994)," required each bureau and office in the Department of the Interior to identify potential effects of departmental activities upon Indian trust resources and mandated meaningful consultation with tribes where activities directly or indirectly affect these resources. Responding to this order, the National Park Service adopted a document, "Carrying Out the Government-to-Government Relationship with American Indians and Alaska Natives in the National Park Service" (October 12, 1995), committing the NPS to a policy of interacting directly with tribal governments regarding the potential impacts of proposed Service activities on Indian tribes and trust resources.

Plan Actions

Tribal Relationships. In the conduct of government-to-government relations, National Preserve managers aim for effective communication and the sharing of information and knowledge about mutual interests in Preserve planning and operations and in managing cultural and natural resources. Thus, the National Park Service will consult on a regular



basis with historically affiliated tribes to accomplish its programs in ways that respect their traditions, beliefs, practices, and other cultural values. NPS staff will continue to work with the tribes in ways such as the following:

- Consulting on any future National Preserve planning documents
- Consulting on National Preserve operations as they may affect any economic interests of the tribes
- Consulting on National Preserve operations as they may affect any joint law enforcement efforts or other intergovernmental concerns
- Consulting on resource management, especially cultural resource management such as identifying and protecting archeological and ethnographic sites
- Consulting on cultural matters, such as National Preserve interpretation of Indian history and heritage

Any archeological, ethnographic, and historical collections of Mojave National Preserve would be managed in accordance with the *NPS Management Policies* (2001), its *Museum Handbook* (1998); and its *Cultural Resource Management Guidance* (Director's Order 28: 1998). Any human remains of Indian affiliation found within the National Preserve, now and in the future, would be treated under the regulations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, as would any artifacts of possible cultural patrimony. The Director's Order 71, *Relationships with American Indians and Alaska Natives* (1999), is also being developed and would provide overall guidance.

The National Park Service recognizes the importance of the cultural resources that are within the National Preserve boundaries to the local American Indian peoples. Accordingly, the National Park Service will continue to coordinate its management of these resources with the appropriate tribal officials and to consult with them on any matters that might affect their interests. The National Park Service also recognizes the economic impact that its management decisions could have on the tribes and will continue to work and consult with the tribes on a government-to-government basis to ensure that their interests in these areas are properly considered before any relevant NPS decisions are made.

Traditional Cultural and Religious Activities. Any closures are to be for the smallest area practicable and for the minimum necessary period. Access must

be consistent with the purpose and intent of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 95-341; 42 U.S.C. 1996), and the Wilderness Act, if applicable.

Sacred Sites. As part of its ongoing dialogue with the tribal governments and communities historically associated with lands in and near the Preserve, the National Park Service will seek to identify, preserve, and manage sacred sites.

Indian Trust Resources. As part of its ongoing dialogue with the tribal governments and communities historically associated with lands in or near the Preserve, the National Park Service will seek to identify, preserve, and manage "Indian trust resources" as specified in the aforementioned departmental order and corresponding NPS policy document.

